

STREET SMART

July 2, 2003

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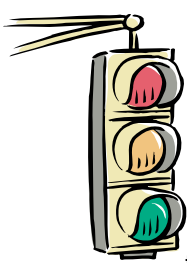
Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 472 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92401 ■ (909) 884-8276
www.sanbag.ca.gov

■ Traffic signal synchronization contract gets green light

Imagine gliding down Foothill Boulevard, Barton Road or Waterman Avenue and seeing nothing but green lights in the distance. The SANBAG Board approved a \$1.8 million contract with Albert Grover & Associates to design, implement and monitor a synchronized traffic signal network across the San Bernardino Valley.

Funded by the Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality program, the network will link signals at 279 intersections in Chino, Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino and Upland.



This is the second tier of signals to be synchronized in the San Bernardino Valley. The first tier, which is under design, will include signals on streets that run parallel to Interstate 10 and Route 60. Two additional tiers will be developed in the future.

Synchronized signals typically result in a 12 to 15 percent reduction in travel times. A synchronized network also can reduce gasoline consumption and pollutants from cars and trucks that are caused by stops, starts and idling at intersections.

Designing the system will take about a year. Plans call for the new system to be underway in about 18 months. The contract will involve training and three years of monitoring and maintenance.

■ New contracts allow 210, 10, 215 freeway projects to advance

Three of SANBAG's Measure I freeway projects moved closer to completion with the award of five contracts for construction, engineering support and preliminary engineering services.

Yeager-Skanska, the lowest responsive bidder, was awarded a \$7.37 million contract for construction of Route 210 between Riverside Avenue and Macy Street. Work will include the Riverside Avenue bridge, realignment of Highland Avenue and the sound wall construction.

HNTB was awarded a \$300,000 contract for Route 210 construction support for the section of freeway to be built by Yeager-Skanska. SANBAG also authorized a contract for \$400,000 to Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas for engineering construction support for Route 210 between Macy Street and Interstate 215.

The Interstate 10 truck-climbing lane between Redlands and Yucaipa received a boost with the hiring of CH2MHill for engineering construction support, a contract worth \$150,000.

In addition, the Board approved a \$957,000 contract to DMJM+Harris for the preparation of plans, specifications and estimates for a section of the Interstate 215 widening project through San Bernardino.

■ SCAG forms new council district for mountain-desert region

It took two years, but the mountain and desert communities of San Bernardino County will have another voice among the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), thanks to the creation of a new regional council district last month.

In May 2001, SANBAG's Mountain-Desert Committee directed staff to investigate the potential for splitting the existing SCAG District 11 into two districts to better serve the diverse interests of this region. Later that year in October, the committee unanimously voted to request that SCAG create an additional district.

Last month, SCAG's Regional Council approved the request and divided District 11 into two districts:

- District 65 will include the four incorporated communities of the Victor Valley: Adelanto, Apple Valley, Hesperia and Victorville.
- District 11 will include the five unincorporated mountain-desert subregions and the cities in the outlying rural areas.

Barstow Mayor Lawrence Dale will serve as the District 11 representative. An election will be held in the near future for the District 65 representative.

Down the Road ...

- July 9: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- July 10: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- July 10: Interstate 215 Open House, 5-7 p.m., Paul Villaseñor Library, San Bernardino

Rialto commemorates beginning of Route 210 construction

Groundbreaking event draws 300

State Route 210 is moving east. SANBAG, Caltrans and Rialto city officials marked the start of construction on the final eight miles of the Foothill Freeway with a groundbreaking ceremony on June 19.

This month's issue of *Measuring Success* highlights the beginning of construction of the final eight miles of State Route 210. This new route, also known as the Foothill Freeway, is SANBAG's largest Measure I project. Approximately \$40 million in Measure I funds will be used to complete the last segments of the freeway through Rialto and San Bernardino.

At the ceremony, elected officials, staff and even schoolchildren donned hard hats and hefted gold shovels to symbolize the beginning of the project in Rialto. More than 300 people attended the outdoor event, held at the corner of Locust Avenue and Casmalia Street, just north of the future freeway.

Elected officials welcomed the crowd and encouraged residents and business owners to be patient while the new freeway is being built. Officials also explained that the end result of a new east-west corridor would be worth the wait.

Caltrans State Director Jeff Morales spoke about the importance of a new route for the Inland Empire and highlighted the agency's plan to invest \$7 billion in transportation improvements in San Bernardino and Riverside counties during the coming years. Morales further emphasized the need for safety near construction sites and reminded everyone to "Slow for the Cone Zone."

Funding for the project continues to be a challenge, but California Transportation Commissioner Joe Tavgliione pledged his support for this project and others in the region. Tavgliione was appointed as an Inland Empire representative to the CTC last November, ending a two-year period in which the bi-county area did not have a local voice on the state commission.

Other presenters included the Rialto Police Department Color Guard, a combined band from Kolb Middle School and Kucera Middle School and fifth graders from Trapp Elementary School, who read essays about what the new freeway will mean for Rialto residents.

Because the ceremony was a symbolic groundbreaking, construction contractors actually will



Members of the combined Kolb-Kucera Middle School bands try on Caltrans vests after playing patriotic tunes during the Rialto Route 210 groundbreaking ceremony.

start rolling in July. On June 4, SANBAG awarded its first construction contract for the project to Riverside Construction for \$13.6 million. Caltrans recently awarded a \$25 million contract to the same firm. SANBAG awarded another construction contract for \$7.37 million to Yeager-Skanska at its July 2 meeting.

Work to be covered by these first three contracts includes construction of the Cactus Channel drainage system; the Alder Avenue interchange; bridges at Ayala Drive and Locust, Linden and Riverside Avenues; realignment of Highland Avenue; the construction of sound walls; and a number of local street improvements to assist with traffic movement during the construction period.

Additional contracts will be awarded later in the year and early next year for future construction work in both Rialto and San Bernardino. The freeway is expected to open to drivers in 2007.

A substantial portion of the funding for State Route 210 is from Measure I, San Bernardino County's half-cent transportation sales tax. Measure I provides the local funds for the project, which also is supported by state and federal dollars. Voters may be asked next year to approve extending Measure I past its 2010 expiration date.



SANBAG staff members lift scoops of dirt June 19 to mark the start of construction of State Route 210 through the City of Rialto.

